

# Yuneec Typhoon H

*The ultimate drone for autonomous flying, videography, and terrific selfies*

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JOHN REID

**Y**uneec's latest release, the Typhoon H, requires minimal assembly time, so you can get in the air within minutes of opening the box. In fact, for this review, most of the waiting time in the beginning was spent on charging the battery pack (the flight pack and a spare are included).

Everything you need to operate and get this bird ready to fly is included inside the package. With the arms folded down, you can see just how compact the Typhoon H truly is. Once out of the box, I just had to click up the six arms into flying position and then click on the six props, which are designed so they can only go onto the correct motors. Finally, I checked to make sure that the battery was fully installed—which, as you guessed, required that I click it into place. That seemed to be a central theme on the Typhoon H: everything that needs to be installed or repositioned for flight will give out an audible click when correctly locked in.

Then it was simply a matter of firing up the ST16 all-in-one controller and letting it link up to the Typhoon H—and just like that, we were ready for the first flight.

## UNIQUE FEATURES

The Yuneec Typhoon H is a feature-rich product, starting with the body construction, which is compact with a very solid feel to it. The foldable arms have a durable locking mechanism that should stand the test of time, and the wire leads that are snaked through the arms are wrapped to prevent any damage and provide durability.

The CGO3+ camera comes mounted on a three-axis, antivibration gimbal and provides stable 4K resolution video. In addition, a no-distortion lens can also produce full HD 1080p with slow motion, and the H also has a 12-megapixel still camera onboard, all of which can be operated from the ST16 controller. All of the camera's settings can be adjusted and controlled while in flight, and it offers a 360-degree view once the legs are retracted.



An almost insectlike appearance gives the Yuneec Typhoon H a unique look. There are a ton of features packed into this compact aerial platform.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Model:** Typhoon H  
**Manufacturer:** Yuneec (yuneec.com)  
**Type:** Aerial camera drone  
**Size:** 520mm  
**Weight:** 4 lb.  
**Radio:** Included (ST16 Ground Station)  
**Power:** Included (six proprietary motors)  
**Price:** \$1,299 (base model)

## WE LIKE

- + Solid flight performance
- + A ton of automated flight modes
- + Great price for the quality
- + Easy-to-understand menu system

## YUNEEC TYPHOON H

We flew the H for about 20 minutes until the first battery warning lights started flashing on the arms. Because we didn't want to push it, we landed right after that. This was more than enough time to film what we needed, and I really had no desire to push it. The speed at which the Typhoon H can move is adjustable, simply by sliding the switch on the side of the transmitter from Turtle (slow flight) to Rabbit (fast flight). For me, slow flight offered the smoothest flight footage.

The Typhoon H has a number of integrated autonomous flight modes and a built-in ultrasonic collision-avoidance system. The effective range of the front ultrasonic sensors is about 5 feet when flying in Smart mode and Angle mode, and the H must be in Turtle mode for them to work correctly. An Auto Take Off mode puts the bird in the air for you and then waits for the next flight command. The Dynamic Return to Home mode, which can be accessed anytime, allows the Typhoon H to return to the current location where the pilot and controller are located rather than from where it lifted off. I found that I could still make any correction to the flight path to avoid any obstacles during return-to-home landing. In addition, a Geo Fence extends out to about a 26-foot-diameter circle around the pilot to prevent pilot-impact strikes.



The forward-facing sonar sensors can help the Typhoon H avoid obstacles during flight.



A solid and stable performer that is easy to fly, the Yuneec Typhoon H is a perfect camera platform.

## AERIAL RECAP

I can say that this is one of the easiest multirotors to fly and control. Takeoffs and landings can be done automatically, but I found manual operation to be just as smooth. This bird felt so comfortable and solid in the air that it was easy to concentrate on shooting video or photography.

While I would not recommend that a beginner start out with this particular model, it would be easy to learn how to fly with the Typhoon H. It has a maximum flying speed of 22mph, but while filming, I liked the looks of the video at the slow speed, which is closer to 13mph. I did find the faster speed to be perfect, however, for following a quick or moving subject so that I could keep it in the frame for a longer period of time.

## FLIGHT MODES

I really liked the Typhoon H's variety of autonomous flight modes, which can be used to create some outstanding aerial footage.

**ORBIT ME:** The multirotor will fly a circular path around you, all the while keeping the camera trained on you. This makes for some great selfie footage.

**POINT OF INTEREST:** For this one, the pilot selects a subject and the Typhoon H will orbit around that subject autonomously. This is great for capturing detailed footage of your subject.

**JOURNEY:** The Typhoon H will go up and out for a set distance as far as 150 feet and then fly back. This is another great mode for aerial selfie videos.

**FOLLOW ME/WATCH ME:** In Follow Me mode, the multirotor will move along with you; in Watch Me mode, it follows you and keeps the camera pointed in your direction. This is good for action aerial footage.

**CURVE CABLE CAM:** This allows you to program an invisible route for the Typhoon to fly along, and when the aircraft is at the preset points, the camera position can be independently controlled. It can also be used for a preplanned camera route to follow a subject.

# ST16 All-in-One Controller

The ST16 Ground Station integrates the transmitter and video receiver in an Android platform to provide complete control over the Typhoon H. I found it easy to program in the various functions on the large 7-inch integrated screen in the middle of the transmitter. It's really nice to have everything together and not have to add my tablet to complete the setup. The screen displays real-time footage (up to one mile away) from the camera during the flight, and it's easy to switch from photo to video during the flight. In addition, several camera functions are changeable in real time while shooting, including ISO, shutter speed, white balance, and camera movement.

Flight modes can also be changed and modified before and during the flight. Because this is a full-functioning controller, it is easy to program autonomous flight modes. A simple swipe help menu system is included for each mode, making it easy to program without a manual and on location. Around the screen, you can see all of the telemetry data coming back from the Typhoon, including battery power, GPS status, number of satellites connected, multirotor position, altitude, speed, and distance from the transmitter. The neck strap makes it easy to fly with, and all of the switches are well labeled and easy to read and reach. I would recommend using the sun shield to block out any light glare on the screen; this makes it easy to see the HD 720p real-time footage while you're flying. The picture quality is outstanding.

Everything needed to control the Typhoon H in the air is on the ST16 controller and clearly labeled. The 7-inch screen displays live video from the multirotor.



Left: The folding mechanism on each arm is solid and appears to be very durable. The braided cables that run through the arms help provide a long life.

Below: The proprietary battery conforms to the aircraft's design configuration and can be locked into place with a snap.

Right: Only the correct propeller can be attached to each motor. The prop clicks into place, and you press a button to release and remove it if needed.



## PILOT DEBRIEFING

The Typhoon H is the perfect multirotor for those pilots who are looking to move up and elevate their photographic endeavors. The flight performance is great, and everything is included, but one of the things that separates this from all others in its category is just how quiet it is during flight. Making multirotors that fly quietly has always been a signature trademark of Yuneec. This is really important when you're flying in any crowded environment.

## BOTTOM LINE

One of the features we are looking forward to trying out in our next outing is the Team mode, where we can use a second ground station bound to the CG03+ camera, which allows for a camera operator in addition to the pilot. Overall, I am impressed with the features, price point, and the great flight performance of this rig. If you are looking to move up to a higher-quality all-in-one camera aerial platform, I highly recommend you look into the Yuneec Typhoon H. ✈️